

# Setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target

## Submission form

The Government is seeking views on New Zealand's post-2020 climate change contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

You can have your say by making a submission using this form or using the online tool available at [www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations).

For more information about this consultation:

- Read our [Consultation on New Zealand's post-2020 international climate change contribution web page](#)
- Read our discussion document: [New Zealand's Climate Change Target: Our contribution to the new international climate change agreement](#)

**Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.**

## Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters), may be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website [www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz). Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this consultation under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this consultation. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.

## Questions to guide your feedback

Your submission may address any aspect of the discussion document, but we would appreciate you paying particular attention to the questions posed throughout and listed in this form. You may answer some or all of the questions. To ensure your point of view is clearly understood, you should explain your rationale and provide supporting evidence where appropriate.

### Contact information

Name	Kathleen Collier
Organisation (if applicable)	
Address	████████████████████
Telephone	██████
Email	████████████████████

### Objectives for the contribution

**1a. We have set the following three objectives for our contribution:**

- **it is seen as a fair and ambitious contribution – both by international and domestic audiences**
- **costs and impacts on society are managed appropriately**
- **it must guide New Zealand over the long term in the global transition to a low emissions world.**

**Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?**

- Yes
- No

**1b. What is most important to you?**

That the biodiversity and environmental integrity of New Zealand should be maintained at any cost; that we meet our societal obligations to defend others against the effects of global climate change; and that measures set in place should represent a *genuine* effort to reduce New Zealand's contribution to global climate change.

### What would be a fair contribution for New Zealand?

**2. What do you think the nature of New Zealand’s emissions and economy means for the level of target that we set?**

The ‘nature of New Zealand’s emissions and economy’ is largely irrelevant; this is a global problem, and everything that can be done must be done. For the sake of argument, however: the agricultural base of New Zealand’s economy has a considerable influence on our net carbon emissions; it is appropriate, therefore, that the agricultural industry should bear a corresponding proportion of the costs involved in mitigation. High-carbon producers in all industries should bear the brunt of the costs as an incentive to diversify their energy resources as rapidly as possible.

## How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

**3. What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what do you think would be a reasonable impact on annual household consumption?**

The costs incurred should primarily be met at an industrial level. This will insure that individual householders, and particularly the more vulnerable members of society, are not adversely affected by the costs of mitigation. If the government is determined that the costs should be borne by private citizens rather than corporations, then an increase to GST is the appropriate means of obtaining revenue. If it is genuinely possible to reduce emissions to 40% below those of 1990 for a cost of \$1800 per annum to the average household (as per the figures given in the discussion document), then a \$1800 cost per household is appropriate. It is utterly absurd to aim for a 5% reductions target rather than a 40% target in order to save an ‘average’ household the difference of \$530!

**4. Of the opportunities for New Zealand to reduce its emissions (as outlined on page 15 of the discussion document), which do you think are the most likely to occur, or be most important for New Zealand?**

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing forest sinks; increasing the use of renewable energy while reducing consumption.

## Summary

**5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?**

It must be accepted that circumstances will change over time, and that intelligent government will be necessary to manage future uncertainties. As a starting point, reading and responding to the wealth of scientific literature on the topic is likely to be beneficial. If policy-makers are still struggling to take into account future uncertainties, I suggest recourse to the recommendations made by the IPCC Mitigation of Climate Change report <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg3/>. “Future uncertainties regarding technologies and costs” (amongst other future uncertainties, such as that regarding the continuation of life on this planet) suggest that our targets should be as stringent as possible.

## Other comments

### 6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.

I think the government would do well to consider the implications of this document:

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2/>. The physical science may be complex, but the implications are simple: if we do not reduce carbon emissions, the physical environment in which we live *will* fail. With this information in mind, every responsible government is obliged to do as much as it humanly can to reduce atmospheric carbon concentrations. We cannot afford *not* to set the highest possible target for emissions reduction.

## When your submission is complete

Email your completed submission to [climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz) or post to Climate Change Contribution Consultation, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

**Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.**